

THE MT. VERNON VETERAN

MT. VERNON VETERANS' HOME

1600 S. HICKORY ST.

MT. VERNON, MO 65712

(417) 466-7103

SPRING 2006

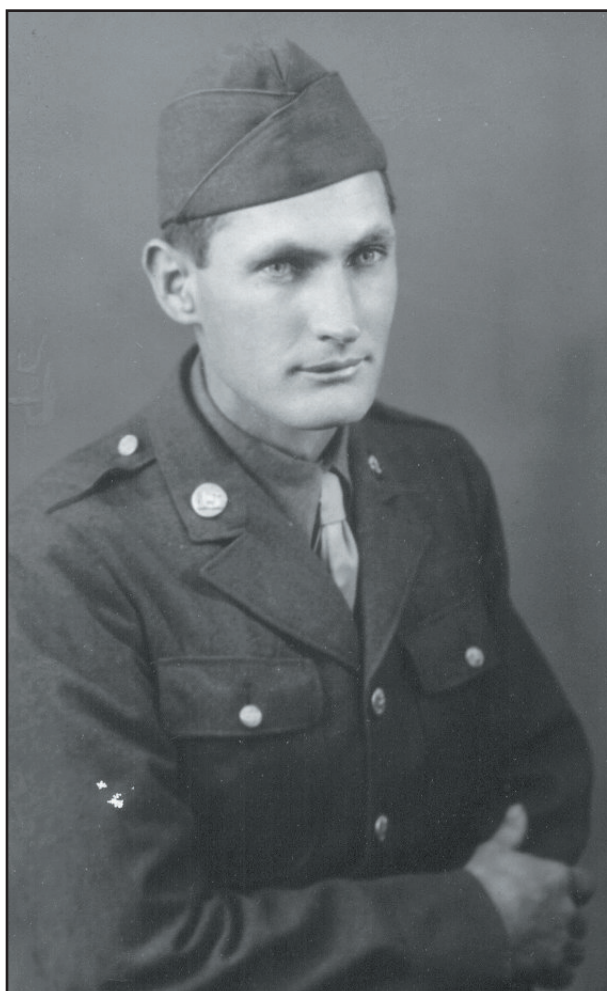
The Price of Freedom is Visible Here

Resident Profile

Andy Knox was born to Oliver and Delia Knox on August 2, 1913. He was born in Salina, Oklahoma and raised on a small farm five miles north of Pineville, Missouri.

Mr. Knox graduated from Pineville High School in 1931, as valedictorian. He then worked on the family farm raising strawberries, tomatoes, and green beans. They also had a few dairy cows and some chickens.

In 1942, he was inducted into the Army Air Corps and trained as an Airplane Electrician Specialist (Avionic Technician in modern parlance). He was sent to England and stationed at Hardwicke Air Drome, which is in Norwich



He volunteered to go on missions, but was turned down. He said that if those had been approved, he probably wouldn't be here now.

While stationed in England he made friends with several local families. He got involved in a local church and was able to bring American candy bars to the children. He spent all his Christmas' away from home in an English home.

Mr Knox was also fortunate in that he was part of the first group to come home

for the next seventeen years. When the dairy business dried up, he was forced to move on, so he bought and ran a resort in Oklahoma for six years. He then worked at the Oklahoma State Mental Hospital in Vinta until he retired in 1978.

Six years earlier he had married his wife Avis Bowman Knox. Mr. & Mrs. Knox moved to Cove, Arkansas and they lived there until her death in 1989. In 1999, he moved back to Pineville, Missouri to be closer to family. Mr. Knox moved into the Missouri Veterans Home on July 21, 2004. We are honored to have such a fine individual as this at the Home.

CENSUS

WW II	137
KOREAN	22
VIETNAM	10
PEACE TIME	6

As of 1 April

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County in East Anglia.

Mr. Knox was assigned to the 407th Air Group and worked at the depot repairing airplanes after being damaged on missions. Although his base was occasionally bombed and strafed by the enemy, he said the worst part was waiting for the planes to return from a mission. They were anxious to see who made it and who didn't.

During the last half of the war, his base was also a target for the V1 "buzz bomb" and V2 rockets. Mr. Knox said that one V1 rocket landed 200 yards from his barracks. He was very fortunate in that he never had to fire his weapon.

after the war. They sailed on the Queen Mary in June 1945, and when they arrived in New York City, they were given a ticker-tape parade.

After the war he returned to southwest Missouri and started a dairy farm, which he ran



Mr. Andy Knox March 21, 2006.

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Missouri Veterans' Home
1600 S. Hickory St.
Mt. Vernon, MO 65712

MISSOURI VETERANS COMMISSION

Carson Ross.....	Chairman
Joseph J. Frank.....	Vice Chairman
S. Lee Kling.....	Member
Bernadette A. Miller.....	Member
Arvid E. West, Jr.....	Member

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Don Long.....	Administrator
James Dennis.....	Asst. Administrator
Dr. Jon Wilson.....	Facility Physician
Joan Elwing, RN.....	Director of Nursing
Sue Houston, RN.....	B - Unit Manager
Diane Reach, RN.....	C - Unit Manager
Debbie Bowles, RN.....	D - Unit Manager
Jenny Myers, RN.....	E - Unit Manager
Janet Dickhut, RN.....	Nursing Supervisor
Julie Green.....	Nursing Supervisor
Marty Andrews.....	Nursing Supervisor
Rowanna Louis.....	Nursing Supervisor
Jill Kennedy.....	Administrative Assistant
Diane Pringle.....	Accounting
Dennis Duncan.....	Computer Services
Glenna Johnson.....	Food Service Manager
Josefa McConnell.....	Housekeeping
Ron Schmidly.....	Maintenance
Mary Ann Swearingen.....	Medical Records
Steve Michaud.....	Personnel
George Bennett.....	Physical Therapy
Eric Stivers.....	Purchasing
Tesa Grider.....	Recreational Therapy
Mary Davis.....	Social Services Director
Teresa Hostetter.....	Social Services - B Wing
Michelle Snow.....	Social Services - C Wing
Nikole Albaugh.....	Social Services - E Wing
April Cutbirth.....	Staff Development Coordinator
David Kloppenborg.....	Volunteer Services

MISSOURI VETERANS HOME
ASSISTANCE LEAGUE BOARD

Scott Sifferman.....	President
Dave Eden.....	Vice President
Diane Pringle.....	Secretary/Treasurer
J.W. Jackson.....	Member
Erna May Doss.....	Member
Chloina Robertson.....	Member

VETERAN’S RESIDENT COUNCIL

George Straight.....	President
Vergil Long.....	Vice President

Employees of the Month

Pictured are the Employees of the Month for January and February. These employees were nominated by their peers. Congratulations to these employees for their accomplishments and caring attitudes to the resident Veterans whom they serve. As Employees of the Month, they were given two free movie passes, a free day off, and a prominent parking space for a month.



Linda Ditzler, January 2006

Linda Ditzler, Personnel Clerk, is the January 2006, Mt. Vernon Missouri Veterans Home Employee of the Month. She is eminently qualified for the honor as the comments on her nomination form show: “Linda goes way above and beyond what is expected of her to keep our employees satisfied with the level of Personnel support they receive from us. Linda is always the first person to volunteer to help others. Her attitude is completely selfless, and she places the needs of our employees ahead of anything else.” Congratulations Linda, you earned it!



Kati Straw, February 2006

Kati Straw, Nursing Assistant I, is the February 2006, Mt. Vernon Veterans Home Employee of the Month. She definitely deserves the honor as the comments on her nomination form show: “Kati is always there to step forward and help others when needed, without being asked. Residents have commented on her caring demeanor and that she is a pleasure to be around. She has a terrific attitude towards her job, co-workers, and residents. Kati’s positive attitude and dedication to her job is clearly evident in her duty performance.” Kati, we salute you!

Missouri Veterans Commission
Employee of the Month

Lorraine Hopson, Custodial Worker I for the St. Louis Veterans Home has been selected as the Missouri Veterans Commission’s January 2006, Employee of the Month. Ms. Hopson is being recognized for her remarkable attendance record and dedication to her position.

Tammy Pew, LPN III from the Cameron Veterans Home has been selected as the February 2006, State Employee of the Month. In January 2006, Ms. Pew was selected as the Department of Public Safety Employee of the Month. Ms. Pew was recognized as the February 2006, State Employee of the Month by Governor Blunt during an awards ceremony March 8.

Kim Cleeton, Public Safety Manager, for the Central Office Homes Program has been selected as the Missouri Veterans Commission March 2006, Employee of the Month. Mrs. Cleeton is being recognized for unceasing efforts to ensure that veterans receive the highest quality of care and concern. Mrs. Cleeton’s commitment to this goal has been demonstrated many times in recent years by going above and beyond in working with veterans, their families, and Commission staff.

The Missouri Veterans Commission established the Employee of the Month Program to recognize employees within the Veterans Commission for outstanding service. If you would like to recognize a fellow co-worker for their outstanding service, please refer to the facility’s policy manual for nomination procedures.

WELCOME

William Russell, United States Army, served from 1938 to 1959. This Greenfield, MO. native bought a farm after the service and farmed until he retired in 1985. He has two children, 6 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. Mr. Russell moved in January 12.

Kenneth Martin, United States Army, served from 1949 to 1952. This Lebanon, MO. native owned a battery company with his five sons. He retired in 1985 and moved to Arizona with his wife P.J. They also had an R.V. and traveled. Mr. Martin moved in January 17.

Gerald Mallonee, United States Marine Corps, served from 1943 to 1945. Mr. Mallonee was raised near Pratt, Kansas. He worked as a machinist at Sunbeam in Neosho for many years. Mr. Mallonee and his wife Lillie have four children. He moved to the Home on January 24.

James Nail, United States Army, served from 1941 to 1945. He is a native of Houston, MO. and earned two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. Mr. Nail worked as a lumber and hardware manager in Jefferson County. Mr. Nail moved to the Home on January 25.

Clarence Day, United States Army, served from 1943 to 1945. This Joplin native worked at Hardies Sheet Metal and Roofing. He and his wife, Waneta, have six children and 8 grandchildren. Mr. Day enjoys fishing, drawing and painting. He moved in January 26.

Wood "Jack" Phillips,

United States Army, served from 1944 to 1946. This rural Pleasant Hope native worked on the Frisco Railroad as a switchman and clerk. Mr. Phillips has a wife, Pauline, and three step-sons. He moved to the Home on February 7.

Dallas Jaeger, United States Air Force, served from 1952 to 1970. This Gilliam, MO. native worked as a salesman for a medical supply store in Topeka, Kansas. He and his wife, Irene, have been married for 52 years. Mr. Jaeger moved to the Home on February 14.

Robert Bledsoe, United States Army, served in the Navy Reserve from 1940 to 1941, and then in the Army from 1944 to 1945, earning a Purple Heart. Mr. Bledsoe lived in California most of his life. He moved to the Missouri Veterans Home on March 6.

Jay Lyman, United States Army Air Corps, served from 1943 to 1946. This Aldridge, MO. native has been married to Anabelle for 58 years. Mr. Lyman worked as the barber and security officer at the State Chest Hospital in Mt. Vernon. Mr. Lyman moved in March 8.

K.S. Pittman, United States Navy, served from 1945 to 1947. Mr. Pittman was born in Mineral Wells, TX. He worked in construction and also made a living by drag

racing. Mr. Pittman enjoys watching drag racing and football. He moved to the Home on March 9.

Pauline Matthews, United States Navy, served from 1944 to 1945. She is from New Hartford, MO. and worked at the Boeing Aircraft plant in St. Louis for 27 years. Ms. Matthews enjoys fishing, reading, and watching movies. She moved to the Home on March 13.

Jerome Hess, United States Air Force, served from 1965 to 1969. Mr. Hess lived in Hollister, MO. with his wife Vicki and held a variety of jobs, including Hillbilly Moccasins. Mr. Hess enjoys fishing, golf, and bowling. He moved to the Home on March 16.

Mitchell Whardo, United States Marine Corps, served from 1940 to 1946. This Oklahoma native has three grown children and worked in California for 24 years. Mr. Whardo enjoys baseball, reading the Bible, and watching T.V. He moved to the Home on March 21.

Arvill Chilton, United States Marine Corps, served from 1944 to 1946. Mr. Chilton grew up in Evening Shade, MO., but lived most of his life in Billings. He worked as a carpenter and has five grown children. Mr. Chilton moved to the Home on March 22.

Jack Semrad, United States

Navy, served from 1944 to 1946. Mr. Semrad was an engineer for International Harvester for 35 years. This job took him all over the world. He and his wife, Dorothy Jean, have two grown daughters. Mr. Semrad moved to the Home on March 23.

Bob Jasper, United States Army served from 1949 to 1952. This St. Joseph native earned a Purple Heart in Korea. Mr. Jasper worked as an iron worker and then as an insurance salesman and adjuster. He moved to the Veterans Home on March 27.

George Snider, United States Navy, served from 1948 to 1952. Mr. Snyder grew up in Carthage. He moved to California in 1959 and back to Carthage in 1977. Mr. Snider loved to bass fish. He moved in on March 28.

John Snadon, United States Navy, served from 1942 to 1946. This Pennsboro native has a pilots license and loves to ride motorcycles. He enjoys reading and talking. Mr. Snadon moved to the Veterans Home on March 29.

Robert Long, United States Marine Corps, served from 1960 to 1964. Mr. Long grew up and lived in California until he retired and moved to Missouri in 1979. He worked as an aircraft electrical draftsman. He moved in March 30.

Taps have been called for the following new resident Veterans:

James Adams, Otto Ethridge, & Cletis Burns



On January 4, Steve and Sally Di Pierdemonico, representing the Julia Foundation, presented a donation check to Veteran Howard Dale. The Julia Foundation donated the money to the Missouri Veterans Home for the purchase of personal care items.



The Barbara Walton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution out of Neosho, MO. stopped by February 14 and delivered Valentines. Pictured above are Veteran Einar Olafson, Arlena Painter, Glenna Reding, Veteran Kenneth Sellers, and Barbara Walton.



TAPS





Lowell Leathers
July 29, 1924
January 5, 2006



Lyle Watkins
Sept. 16, 1918
January 22, 2006



Joe Thornhill
January 27, 1925
February 21, 2006



Walter Hottinger
June 10, 1919
March 1, 2006



Richard Lee
July 19, 1921
January 10, 2006



Ralph Linhorst
Nov. 29, 1921
January 24, 2006



Walter Zimmerman
August 27, 1927
February 23, 2006



Leo Harter
May 2, 1925
March 4, 2006



Bert Daniels
Nov. 12, 1922
January 13, 2006



James Adams
Nov. 16, 1924
January 30, 2006



Virgil Roark
August 5, 1934
February 23, 2006



George Muller
May 30, 1922
March 9, 2006



Richard Cole
Nov. 21, 1923
January 20, 2006



Rex Ramsey
June 9, 1922
February 8, 2006



Cletis Burns
April 3, 1921
February 26, 2006



William Gardner
March 25, 1926
March 22, 2006



Walter Regehr
Nov. 14, 1918
January 21, 2006

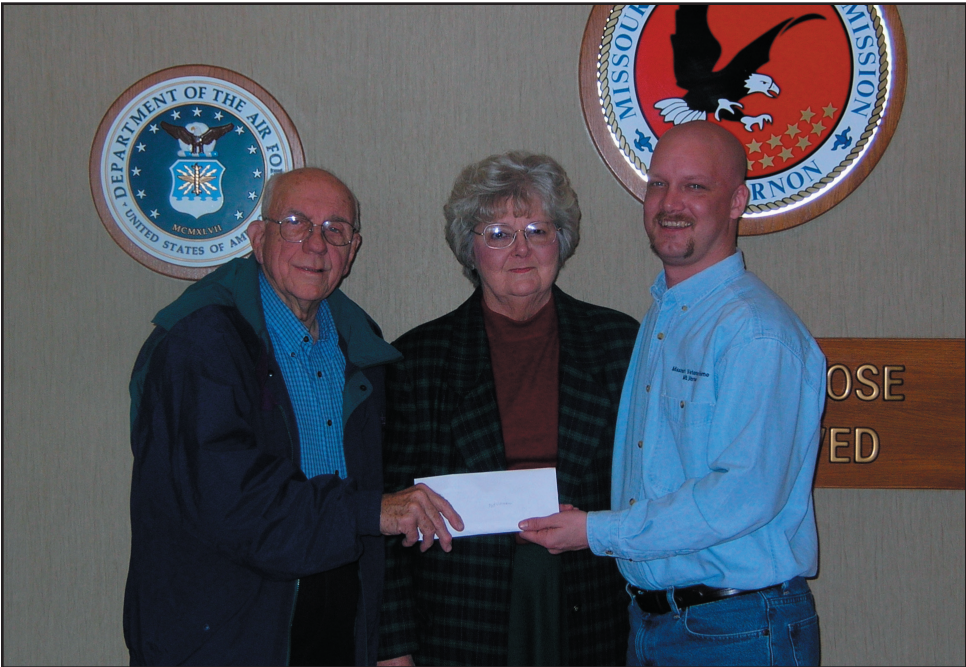


Otto Ethridge
October 11, 1923
February 15, 2006



Richard Martineau
February 13, 1926
February 27, 2006

*Now in the Service
of the Supreme
Commander*



On December 25, 2006, long time supporters of the Missouri Veterans Home Mt. Vernon, Del and Joanne Snodgrass celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. On January 7, 2006, an open house was held for community members, family and friends to congratulate their accomplishments. In lieu of gifts, Del and Joanne requested that donations be made to the Veterans Home in Mt. Vernon. Pictured above, Assistant Administrator, James Dennis, accepts the donation on behalf of the Mt. Vernon Veterans Home Assistance League from Del and Joanne.



Assistant Administrator, James Dennis, and Tom Gill of the Elks Lodge 409 of Springfield stand behind items that the Elks 409 donated. Included among the items are a DVD player, postage stamps and various supplies. We are very fortunate to have caring groups like the Elks 409.

*Wisdom is the reward you get for a
lifetime of listening when you would
have preferred to talk.*

Don't count the days--make the days count.

*There is no tranquilizer in the world more
effective than a few kind words.*

VISIT US ON LINE

To learn more about the Mt. Vernon Veterans' Home, visit us at www.sofnet.com/~movet . To learn more about other Missouri Veterans' Homes and/or other programs offered by the Missouri Veterans' Commission, log on to the Commission Home page at www.mvc.state.mo.us.

DONATIONS

MONETARY DONATIONS

Military Order of the Cooties Pup
Tent # 11 - Joplin
American Legion Post 137 -
Mt. Vernon
Katherine Crider - Mt. Vernon
The Julia Foundation - Joplin
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Aux. 5923 - Camdenton
V.F.W. Post 5923 - Camdenton
William St. Gemme - Springfield
Earl Patchin - Joplin
V.F.W. Aux. District 7
Audra Gentry - Springfield
Daughters of the American Revolution MO. State Society
V.F.W. Post 7628 - Ozark
Disabled American Veterans Aux.
66 - Bolivar
V.F.W. Post 5525 - Stockton
Anna Dye - Joplin
John and Robbie Robertson -
Bella Vist, AR
Raymond McCaley - Joplin
N.A.R.F.E. # 19 - Carl Junction
Marjorie Cooper - Joplin
The P.O. Breakfast Club Bunch -
Joplin
Alois Kennedy - Joplin
Glenn Brown - Diamond
Mark Hutchinson - Diamond
Lauren Bradley - Diamond
Ashlyn Bradley - Diamond
Helen McFadin - Springfield
Twyla Landrith - Joplin
Jim and Charlotte Vanslyke
American Legion Aux. 69 -
Springfield
Vera Johnston
Peter and Michelle Neber -
Rockwell, TX
Ruth Noel - Joplin
Duane and Sue Beckham - Joplin
Pat and Verne McBride -
Springfield
Barry and Martha Ruark - Miller
Mary Lee Regehr - Miller
Loretta and Lynn Thomas - Miller
Military Order of the Purple Hearts
Ch. 821 - Joplin
Melissa Deitchman - Harrah, OK
American Legion Aux. 419 -
Freistatt
V.F.W. Aux. 2590 - Carthage
Joanne & Del Snodgrass -
Lockwood
Natalie Wehrman - Lockwood

William and Kelli Rode -
Fredricksburg, TX
Paula and Gregory Ahrendt -
Fredricksburg, TX
Paul and Kandis Pyka -
Fredricksburg, TX
Dawn and Stuart Barron -
Fredricksburg, TX
V.F.W. Aux. 5525 - Stockton
Donna Osborne - Carthage
Lily Collins - Carthage
Hazel Martineau - Gainesville, FL
Bowlers to Veterans Link
Tote Along Inc. - Miami, OK
Jeraldine Acker - Weableau
Mary Jane McMillan - Wheatland
Mr. & Mrs. John Blackwell -
Marshall
Crawford Auction Service - Cross
Timbers
Kathy Lee Stanley - Humansville
Brett Hayes - Miami, OK
Ruth Zimmerman - Miami, OK
Walnut Creek Ranch - Wheatland
Ron Martineau - Fredricksburg, VA
James Weaver, Bethesda, MD
American Legion Post 86 -
Independence
Kathleen Thompson - Bolivar
John Cowherd, Attorney - Mt.
Vernon
Ozark Electric Co-op - Mt. Vernon
First National Bank - Mt. Vernon
Stemmons Law Firm - Mt. Vernon
Norman & Annabelle Justus -
Mt. Vernon
Fossett-Mosher Funeral Home -
Mt. Vernon
Century 21 New Beginnings -
Mt. Vernon
Carol Jones Realtors - Mt. Vernon

MATERIAL DONATIONS

V.F.W. Post 2293 - Ash Grove
Family of Dale Nelson
The United Methodist Church -
Aurora
Soukup Enterprises - Springfield
V.F.W. Post 3691 - Lamar
D.A.V. Ch. 41 - Carthage
Silver Star Families of America
Military Order of the Cooties Pup
Tent # 11 - Joplin
The Veterans Fund - Nashville, TN
Henry Plummer - Wheaton
Donna Harrison - Brookline
Station

VETERANS' HOME WISH LIST

ITEM	Est. Cost
Denture Adhesive.....	4.00
Shaving Cream.....	1.50
Lotion	1.00
Spray Deodorant	1.50
Shampoo.....	1.00
Chap Stick75
Book of Stamps.....	7.80
Cards of all kinds: birthday, thank you, sympathy, etc.	
Hand made bibs	

If your organization is interested in purchasing any of the items listed above or are interested in finding out information about larger on-going projects for the new facility, please contact David Kloppenborg at (417) 466-7103.

Telephone Pioneers - Springfield
MO State Troopers Association
Susan Lamphear - Springfield
V. Louise Daugherty Trust
Einar Olafson - Mt. Vernon
Frank Howell - Mt. Vernon
Marine Corps League
Rogersville Community Club
V.F.W. Aux. 5686 - Billings
George Dunaklin - Springfield
Douglas Howard - Kissee Mills
El Dorado Games - Mt. Vernon
Cheryl Driver- Springfield
Diamond Baptist Church -
Diamond
Helen Wheatly - Springfield
Pete & Judy Just - Mt. Vernon
Mark Russell - Jasper
V.F.W. Aux. 7628 - Ozark
American Legion Post 443 - Ash
Grove

D.A.V. Aux. #11 - Springfield
The United States Air Force
Academy Band
Family of Walter Zimmerman
Barb Petner - Sauk Village, IL
Connie Murrey - Liberal
Family of Virgil Roark
Jack Ball - Lebanon
Dale Huff - Mt. Vernon
Family of Cletis Burns
Colonel Maupin - Joplin
Colonial Dames of the 17th
Century, Robert Napier Ch.
Galena Elks Lodge
American Legion Post 419 -
Freistatt
Kathy Stamate
Elanor Grace Wood - Mt. Vernon
Juanita Roberts
Family of William Gardner
Dutch Herman - Springfield



Veteran Joe Colton with his daughter Pamela Sue Dickinson having a good time during the Sweetheart Dance.

HAPPENINGS AT THE HOME



Lola Clark's Ozark Country Roads featuring the Sunshine Boys and Banjoist Dee Davis played at the Veterans Home February 9. Pictured above, from left to right are: Dee Davis, Lola Clark, A.B. Ward, and Darrell Hilton.



Veterans Sanford Stockstill, John Armes, and Elwood Moeskau enjoy the music of Ozark Country Roads. Live performances by area bands are one of the most requested activities by resident Veterans.



A band with the unforgettable name of "Skum of the Pioneers" played at the Missouri Veterans Home on January 23.

Sweetheart Dance

On February 11, the Missouri Veterans Home hosted a Sweetheart Dance for residents and their spouses. Valentine balloons, ribbons, and rose petals decorated the dining room and set the mood for the dance. Singer Lisa Parnell provided the music and also an occasional dance. Everyone wanting to dance was able to, and they all had a good time.



Patricia and John "Jack" McKinney on the dance floor.



Ruth and George Bell came down to soak up the atmosphere.



Veteran Birl Stewart and Mt. Vernon resident Herbert Moore enjoy each other's company during the performance of the Skum Band. Mr. Stewart and Mr. Moore both served in the Army's 7th Corps during World War II.



Veteran Sam Johnson and Lisa Parnell cutting a rug. Lisa was a very popular person that day.



Activity Therapist Nina Thompson and Veteran Thomas Grier.



On Saturday, March 4, Kum Boxley and friends came all the way from Waynesville, MO. to give the presentation "Stories From the Far East." It was a colorful event. Above, the troupe poses with veterans Kenneth Sellars, Betty Stewart, Birl Stewart, Rafael Rodriguez, and John Graham.



The Veterans Home held a small Mardi Gras on February 28 for the residents. Veterans Thomas Grier and Rafael Rodriguez are shown above.



Veteran Dorothy Ianucilli having a drink at Mardi Gras.



Veterans Herschel Garrison and Kenneth Dobrauc during the Home's St. Patrick's Day celebration.



The Christian County Elks Lodge getting ready for BINGO. Above are Elks members Ron Wasson, Bill Howell, and Eleanor Howell.

Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Public Affairs

America’s Wars

Source: Department of Defense

American Revolution (1775-1783)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	217,000
Battle Deaths	4,435
Non-mortal Woundings	6,188

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	286,730
Battle Deaths	2,260
Non-mortal Woundings	4,505

Indian Wars (about 1817-1898)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (estimate)	106,000
Battle Deaths (estimate)	1,000

Mexican-American War (1846-1848)

Total U.S. Servicemembers	78,718
Battle Deaths	1,733
Non-mortal Woundings	4,152

Civil War (1861-1865)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (Union)	2,213,363
Battle Deaths (Union)	140,414
Non-mortal Woundings (Union)	281,881
Total Servicemembers (Conf.)	1,050,00
Battle Deaths (Conf.)	74,524
Non-mortal Woundings (Conf.)	Unknown

Spanish-American War (1898-1902)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (world wide)	306,760
Battle Deaths	385
Non-mortal Woundings	1,662

World War I (1917-1918)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (world wide)	4,734,991
Battle Deaths	53,402
Non-mortal Woundings	204,002

World War II (1941-1945)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (world wide)	16,112,566
Battle Deaths	291,557
Non-mortal Woundings	671,84

Korean War (1950-1953)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (world wide)	5,720,000
Battle Deaths	33,741
Non-mortal Woundings	103,284

Vietnam War (1964-1975)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (world wide)	9,200,000
Battle Deaths	47,415
Non-mortal Woundings	153,303

Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)

Total U.S. Sevicemembers (world wide)	2,322,332
Deployed to Gulf	694,550
Battle Deaths	147
Non-mortal Woundings	476

War on Terrorism (2001-Present)

Total U.S. Servicemembers (world wide)	1,428,383
Deployed to Iraq & Afghanistan	185,329
Battle Deaths (as of 3/27/06)	2,124
Non-mortal Woundings	17,338



Purple Heart recipients gather for a photo. The men pictured above all received the Purple Heart. In the front row from left to right: Hollis Collins, Robert Bledsoe, William Gardner, Max May, James Nail, and Roy Smith. Standing in the rear are: Chester Perigo, Thomas Grier, and Einar Olafson. Not pictured are William Cooper, John Mills, and Curtis Wilkerson.



The Military Order of the Purple Hearts, Chapter 821 of Joplin, Missouri presented a check to the Missouri Veterans Home for \$4,130.00 to be used for the purchase of an oxygen concentrator and home refill station. Pictured above are from left to right: Earl Patchin, Ron Mosbaugh, Albert Walton, Harold Snyder, Robert Close, Herschel Luck, and Robert Russow.

New Volunteers



William "Bill" Early, lives in Mt. Vernon. He is very knowledgeable about computers and has a ham radio. Bill began volunteering in November 2005.



Thomas Grier, who is a resident veteran, volunteers in the canteen on weekday afternoons. Tom earned a Purple Heart in Vietnam. He began volunteering in December 2005.



Raymond Willis, who hails from Nixa, began volunteering in January 2006. He and his wife, Ellarea, visit the first and third Wednesdays of the month.



Ellarea Willis, who lives with her husband Raymond, also began volunteering in January. They both come down twice a month and visit with Veterans.



Bob Egan, who lives near Aurora, volunteers several times a week as a companion volunteer. He is naturally friendly and open. Bob began volunteering in January.



Brenda Towe lives in Miller and began volunteering in the Activities Dept. She will soon begin college to become a Recreational Therapist. She began volunteering in March.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Erna May Doss

The Missouri Veterans Home is fortunate to have a dedicated volunteer like Erna May Doss. Erna May has been volunteering her time for good causes since 1951. She very much enjoys being a part of the community and helping any way she can. She is heavily involved with the American Legion, the Missouri Veterans Home and her church.

Erna May started as a volunteer at the Mt. Vernon Veterans Home in January 1984. In May 1985, the volunteers had a meeting to elect officers and Erna May was elected first Vice-President. She was elected President in May 1987, a position she held until 2005. In 1991, she was elected to the Mt. Vernon Missouri Veterans Home Assistance League



Erna May Doss Board, on which she remains.

Erna May was a charter member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary #419 of Freistatt, Missouri, in January 1951, and has been a member ever since. In that organization, she has held all major offices several times over and has been the Treasurer for the last 33 years. She served as District President in 1964 and again in 1974.

Erna May joined the Ladies of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Freistatt in the 1960's and has been active ever since. She was President in 1974, and again from 1998 to the present. She has served on many committees in the church. She has also participated in mission work "tacking quilts" for world relief, as well as serving meals when funerals are held for members of her church.



Jim Brown, who lives in Neosho and drives a school bus, began volunteering in March. Jim spent twenty years in the Air Force.



Nicole Typaldos lives in Mt. Vernon and attends college at O.T.C. She and her aunt, Cynthia Typaldos, bring in "Pumpkin", a beautiful little beagle for petting visits.



Hannah Wisdom, who lives in Mt. Vernon, began volunteering in March as a companion volunteer. She has experience working in a nursing home environment.

Employee Involvement Committee

The E.I.C. has already been busy this year with different events. This year's weight loss program began February 1, and ran through March 29. The second session began April 3. The first place team received 75% of winnings, while second place received 25%. The winners were not yet known when this went to press.

A chili-cook-off was held February 10 with thirteen employees providing dishes in hopes of winning. Cathy Friend won in the mild category, while Ron Schmidly won in the spicy category.

In upcoming events, Nikole Albaugh is organizing a team for the Relay for Life. The Relay for Life will be held June 2 and 3 this year. Nikole will also put together an Easter basket to raffle as a fundraiser for the Relay for Life.

The E.I.C. is also planning an employee picnic to be held Friday, May 12 at 4:30. This will be a Ha-

waiian themed luau for employees only. The committee is also looking to have a summer picnic on August 15.

The E.I.C. will be busy with the annual Apple Butter Makin' Days booth this year as well. It is not too early to begin asking for help. The committee can not man this booth by itself. It needs your help! All proceeds from the booth go right back to helping the employees. The E.I.C. pays for the annual holiday dinner, the picnics, and any other E.I.C. sponsored event. Any help in the booth would certainly be appreciated.

The Employee Involvement Committee is always looking for ways to keep employee morale up. If you have any ideas, or simply want to provide some muscle, the E.I.C. welcomes your help. When there is work to be done, turn up your sleeves, not your nose.

Resident Council News

Quorum changed for Resident Council Meetings. The Council voted to change a quorum from 1/2 plus one to simply 1/2 being present. In the past, there was often not enough representatives present to form a quorum. Consequently, business could not be accomplished.

The Council also voted to change the number of representatives to 11. There will be two representatives from each unit, which equals 8, plus an additional 3 for a total of 11 representatives.

In other business, the Council previously urged the Activities Department to slow down the menu screen on channel 2 and use a larger font. The Council was informed that those changes have been made, and additionally, the the font was brightened so that menus and activities can be viewed more easily.

Remember, Resident Council meets the second Thursday of each month at 1:30 P.M. in the Activities Room. All residents are encouraged to attend.



George Eells and Vice President Vergil Long look on while President George Straight runs the Resident Council Meeting on March 9.

NEW EMPLOYEES

January
Ana Lasswell - Certified Nursing Assistant
Jennifer Pierce - RN III
Teresa Hostetter - Clinical Casework Assistant I
Peggy Owen - Certified Nursing Assistant
Glenna Johnson - Food Service Manager I

February
Janett Shaw - Certified Nursing Assistant
Phyllis Mitchell - Certified Nursing Assistant
Valerie Valante - Receptionist

March
Becky Abramovitz - Certified Nursing Assistant
Peggy Howard - Certified Nursing Assistant
Jeanette Gold - Custodial Worker I
Stacie Clark - Certified Nursing Assistant

NAGNA NOTES

by Janie Sparkman

NAGNA representative Ellie Florang was on hand on March 16 to present an in-service on stress in the work place for the facilities care team. There will be another in-service on May 31, at 10:00 P.M. and again on June 1, at 2:30 P.M.

The Care Team is building a team for Relay for Life, which will be held June 2 and 3, in Mt. Vernon. Please help out the team if you can.

The Care Team will be having a booth this year during Apple Butter Makin' Days. We need your help and support, as this will be a major fund raiser for the facility. ABMD is held the second weekend in October.

The NAGNA convention will be held sometime around Labor Day. The Care Team will be asking for ideas to raise money to help pay for people to attend the convention. The more involved you are with the Care Team, the better your chances of going to convention will be.

Max's Photo Gallery

Veteran Max Schaeffer is always ready with his camera. Below are just a few of the staff he has captured on film.

Below are Cara Turner, Housekeeper, and Missy Carter, CMT. To the right is Christina Bowman, CNA.



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

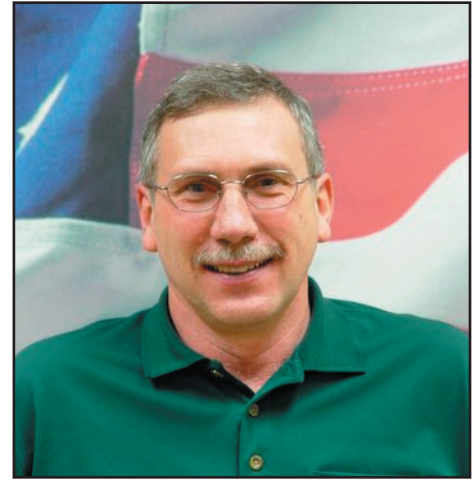
On February 2, 2006, the Missouri Veterans Home held its annual employee recognition ceremony. Years of Service Awards were presented to employees who have provided care and compassion to Missouri Veterans at the Mt. Vernon Veterans Home. Years of service pins were presented to

employees who have provided 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service.

The first Employee of the Year Award was presented to Charles Campbell, Maintenance. Awards were presented by Administrator, Don Long, and Assistant Administrator, James Dennis.

Employee of the Year

Charles Campbell, maintenance, is the Home's first Employee of the Year. The newly created honor was determined by a vote of his fellow co-workers. All 12 Employees of the Month for 2005 were on the ballot. Charles is well deserving of the award.



Twenty Years of Service Awards were presented to Patty Sullivan, RN; Debra Bowles, RN; Josefa McConnell, Housekeeping; Michelle Smith, CMT; and Marion Wright, Laundry. Flanking the recipients are Administrator, Don Long, and Assistant Administrator, James Dennis. Not pictured are: George Bennett, Therapy; Peggy Lilienkamp, CNA; and Marilyn Wright, RN.



Fifteen Years of Service Awards were presented to Mary Davis, Social Services; Debbie Eutsler, Purchasing; and Barbara Truman, Medical Records by Administrator Don Long and Assistant Administrator James Dennis. Not pictured are: Jimmy Brashers, Transporter; and Elisabeth Brashers, CNA.



Ten Year Service Awards were presented to Paul Morgan, Housekeeping; Laura Price, Housekeeping; and Eileen Hausmann, CNA flanked by Administrator, Don Long, and Assistant Administrator, James Dennis. Not pictured are: Marsha Bennett, LPN; Diana Chei, LPN; Martha Epps, Housekeeping; Andrew Just, Housekeeping; Diana Morton, CNA; and Jenny Myers, RN.



Five Years of Service Awards were presented to 13 employees. Pictured above are Don Long, Administrator; Katie Earnest, Nursing Scheduler; Dennis Duncan, Computer Information; Erlinda Hudson, Housekeeping; Jeanie Kleeman, Barber; and presenter James Dennis, Assistant Administrator. Not pictured are: Kathy Campbell, LPN; Mary Essary, CNA; Linda Gann, CNA; Rebecca McNeil, RN; Ella Overstreet, Restorative Nursing; Elaine Spradling, CNA; Mary Ann Swearingen, Medical Records; June Keith, Dietary; and Sandy Viveiros, RN.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

April 8	Children's Easter Walk Through 1:30 - 3:00
April 8	The Stribling Band, D.R. 2:00
April 12	Elks 409 BINGO D.R. 2:00
April 19	Christian County Elks BINGO D.R. 2:00
April 20	VFW Post 7628 BINGO, D.R. 2:00
April 21	Creeks Arisin' Bluegrass at Horseshoe Theatre. 7:00 P.M.
April 22	Cooties Clowns Visit, 1:30 P.M.
April 25	A/L 676 Birthday BINGO, D.R. 2:00
April 29	D.A.V. # 52 BINGO, D.R. 2:00

MAY

May 4	Knights of Columbus, BINGO, D.R. 2:00
May 6	Singing South-ersds, D.R. 10:00
May 10	Elks 409 BINGO D.R. 2:00
May 13	The Striblings Band, D.R. 2:00
May 14-20	National Nursing Home Week
May 18	Lisa Parnell Music, D, E, & D.R., 9:00
May 19	The Loose Notes D.R. 2:00
May 20	Remembrance Day Lunch at A/L 639, 10:00
May 21	AMVETS 178 Fish Fry at Brighton, 4:00
May 23	A/L 69, BINGO D.R., 2:00
May 24	Christian County Elks Cardinals Baseball Game

JUNE

June 1	Knights of Columbus, BINGO, D.R. 2:00
June 8	Annual Picnic for B, C, & E Wings, 11:30
June 9	Annual Picnic for D Wing 11:00
June 13	D Wing Fishing Talbot Conservation Pond, 9:00
June 14	Flag Day Lunch at Elks 409 10:00
June 17	Father's Day Lunch at A/L 639 10:00
June 21	Lunch at Christian Co. Elks 11:00
June 22	B, C, & E Wing Fishing at Bois D'Arc Conservation Pond, 9:00
June 24	Fiddlers Contest at Snyder Park

ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL THE ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT.

BIRTHDAYS

<u>April</u>	
James Miller	4/01
Joseph Robb	4/03
David Cook	4/05
Charles Moss	4/08
Charles Shoults	4/09
George Murrey	4/12
Glenn Sarhage	4/14
Claude Knoles	4/16
Charles Winston	4/18
Sam Hibbard	4/18
Richard Therien	4/23
Fred Richardson	4/26
Betty Stewart	4/27
Paul Bennett	4/29

<u>May</u>	
Walter Loyd	5/01
Bill Evans	5/01
Sanford Stockstill	5/02
Ernest Kester	5/02
Boone Gillihan	5/05
Helen Knoles	5/15
Robert Dubuque	5/21
Charles Presley	5/23
Floyd Loudon	5/31

<u>June</u>	
Clifford Doss	6/02
Leo Bennett	6/04
Jose Sainz	6/04
Jack Roberts	6/07
Cleatus Stewart	6/07
Kenneth Mayfield	6/08
Edwin Ballard	6/11
Robert Koester	6/15
Leland Skoglund	6/21
Albert Powell	6/27
Talbert Kelley	6/28

If your group or organization is interested in providing an activity for the residents of the Mt. Vernon Veterans Home, please contact the Activities Department at (417)466-7103 Ext. 1159.

Need a Program?

Does your civic organization need a program? The Missouri Veterans Home can help you out. We have a power point presentation regarding the Veterans Home. This is a 20 to 30 minute presentation which explains the admission requirements, costs, and frequently asked questions. We would be happy to come to your meeting at any time to present the program. Call (417)466-7103 and ask for David.

Mark your calendars! Saturday, July 15 will be the Home's Third Annual Ride for Freedom. It is a motorcycle poker run that will travel approximately 100 miles through the Ozarks. High and low hands will win cash prizes. Many other prizes will be given away.

The poker run is open to all motorcycle riders 18 years and older. Bikes out at 10:00 A.M. and return by 1:00 P.M. For \$20, riders will get one poker hand, one meal, and one t-shirt. Pre-registration preferred, but you may register the day of event. The run will begin and end at the Missouri Veterans Home, 1600 S. Hickory Street, Mt. Vernon, MO. For details call David at (417)466-7103 or e-mail at David.Kloppenborg@mvc.dps.mo.gov.

